

Fort Wainwright School Liaison Officer (SLO)

Beth Gambrell, School Liaison Officer

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(for additional convenience)

Bldg# 4176 Neely Rd., Fort Wainwright CYS Registration Center

across from Arctic Light Elementary School on post (little brown building)

I will be more than happy to assist the families stationed at Fort Wainwright (living both on and off post) with their school related issues, be it public, private, correspondence, or home school. Pre-K through High School, to include college and trade school information, preparation, and a plethora of scholarship opportunities, (local, state, military specific, and nationwide) for all students planning on attending either trade school or college. For students planning on joining the work force directly from high school I have information regarding agency contacts and employment help for on and off post job opportunities.

As well the School Liaison Officer (SLO) can provide information about the gaining school district prior to a families PCS from Fort Wainwright, and give time saving tips and ideas to make your transition easier and smoother.

All military high school students, from any branch of service, that are transferring out of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD) can utilize the Interactive Counseling Center (ICC), located at Lathrop High School Guidance Counselor's offices, and transfer needed documents electronically to the gaining high school prior to moving, as well as get up-to-date information regarding sports try-outs, credit transfers, and anything else that may be of need or interest to the relocating high school student and their family. The Army, and other branches of the military, have School Liaison Officer's to assist you with your school age children's educational needs at posts worldwide. I can provide a point of contact for every Army post.

***If any parent or parents have any questions and/or concerns please
contact the Fort Wainwright School Liaison Officer***

As I am in and out of my office attending a variety of meetings with post, the school district and the local schools, I am not always available for parents to speak with immediately. I welcome anyone to just stop by and talk to me, but I cannot promise that I will be in my office. If that is the case they may leave their name, number, and brief question or concern on a slip of paper, at the front desk of Central Registration, and I will call them as soon as possible to talk with them further, and in more detail if need be. It may take a day or two for me to get back to parents/students depending upon my schedule and anything last minute that should arise. Every student and parent is of the utmost importance to me and I will assist them in any way that I can. If I don't know the answer, I will find it and get back in touch with them. No question or need is too great or too small.

Regarding Deployments & Schools:

Each school identifies the children that are affected by the deployment of our troops; Army, Air Force, and any other branch that may be involved in any deployment (i.e. Marine family living in the FNSBSD who has a loved one deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, etc).

The schools did an excellent job this last year getting to know the children and families of anyone that has a loved one in the family that is deployed or deploying, or has recently experienced a deployment. They will continue to do so as long as troops/airmen are deploying. The schools have identified such children with the help of parents filling out a short form that had been made available to the families and students many times throughout the year. If the school is aware that a child is affected, but they don't have a form filled out by the parent, they will try and contact the parent regarding the programs that the school has established. If neither the parent nor the child informs their individual school that they are affected by a past, present, or future deployment then the school may not realize that the family is impacted. Each school is attuned to the children and are very careful to not let any child slip through the cracks, but it may happen if parents are not sharing this information with the schools.

Additionally, each school also has a counselor that has been familiarized with the unique stresses of children and families affected by a deployment. Also, there is a district deployment counselor that goes to each school and talks with the school counselor, staff, and the children.

I have personally seen a wide variety of supportive and fun deployment groups that the schools have put together. Each school has an innovative and effective program that the children are encouraged to participate in, but are not forced to. However, most Military children love to be a part of this deployment group because they all share a common bond.

During these groups the emphasize is on fun, and the encouragement of expressing thoughts, and the benefit of communication with a trusted individual at anytime needed during the deployment, whether that is a parent, grandparent, teacher, or counselor at school. During this group time (that does not interfere with classroom instruction time) kids work on crafts, pictures to send overseas, journals, etc. The middle schools have let the students develop their own programs and as a result the students have come up with some very creative outlets and activities under the guidance of the school counselor.

Additionally the Principals at the schools are very in tuned to what the families and children, and even the Soldiers are dealing with. So the students and families have a lot of support and understanding with the schools and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

The School Liaison Officer (SLO) has additional resources for families, students, and schools, who wish to seek further counseling information that is available both on post and off post for Military families. I cannot make any recommendations, as just like education, each family has different needs, goals and expectations that are unique for their families.

The SLO is the information link for families, students, agencies, services, and points of contact for the school district, schools (public, private, and home school)

families, students and the Garrison Command. I have a wealth of information and resources for every need and every age and grade level. Such as; scholarship resources SAT information, IEP assistance and guidance, school transition guidance for incoming families and departing families - please see me if you are in transition or will be in the coming months. It's never too early to start planning if you have an idea of where your family is headed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions. I look forward to serving you.

Most sincerely,

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